



Temperance Department.

HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED

The *Alliance News*, in discussing the propriety of the Prince of Wales presiding over the dinner given by the Licensed Victuallers, points out the changed view of society with regard to the traffic. It says—

How naturally and easily the Prince of Wales yielded to their request, the precedents referred to by His Royal Highness's late chaplain suffice to show at a glance. The Duke of Sussex, the Prince Consort, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales himself had done the like on previous occasions. As Canon Duckworth says, "it is clear, therefore, that a large amount of royal patronage had been bestowed upon the asylum in bygone years." Certainly, if nothing about the case had undergone a change, the Prince's assent to this new request of the publicans was simply a matter of course, subject only to considerations of His Royal Highness's personal convenience.

But was there no change? The Prince of Wales's late chaplain, referring to the precedents, observes significantly that they date, it is true, "from the days when the evils of the liquor traffic had not been fully exposed." There had, then, been a change, and an important one. The change was this. An unwholesome fog, a mental mist, had lain from immemorial time all over the face of the country, and in the gloom, the liquor traffic, like some fungous growth, had thriven and spread unchecked on every side. Its existence was taken as a matter of course, and equally of course it was no more found fault with than was frost if it happened to slay the people, or the hot sun if it parched them with its beams. Here and there, it is true, somebody saw, or partly saw, what the traffic was doing. John Wesley, for example, declared in strong language, that in his day it "sent men to hell like sheep." But down to a time still very recent public attention had not been much called to it. In the words of Canon Duckworth "the evils of the liquor traffic had not been fully exposed." Even clergymen and philanthropists regarded it without misgiving. No wonder that it received unquestioned patronage from the Duke of Sussex and the Prince Consort, and that the precedents were thus set, which, as Canon Duckworth truly remarks, "go far to justify His Royal Highness" the Prince of Wales in taking the chair at the banquet of the publicans. They do go far but the great question is, whether the time has not now come when they should go no further.

For, indeed, things have changed of late years. And this is the nature of the change. The low, malarious fog of past ages has begun to be lifted, and new light is shining on all hands, bringing into view a thousand evils formerly unsuspected. Philanthropist after philanthropist, like the late Mr. Rev. Order Hill, as a result of his independent research, has come upon the stern fact, that in whatever path he may strike in trying to effect social improvement, the liquor traffic, fiend-like, starts up and blocks the way. And even the late Mr. Charles Buxton, though a brewer, was constrained to declare that the war against the liquor traffic was a war of heaven against hell. The Convocations first of Canterbury, then of York, have hit upon the same truth, and have joined hosts of other ministers of religion in finding that their best attempts as doers of good and preachers of righteousness are nullified and defeated by the same great evil cause. In fact, the world is waking up at last to the truth that the first and most needful thing to be done to promote its physical, fiscal, moral, social, and religious welfare is to declare war, more or less thorough, against the liquor traffic. And for some years past, in ever increasing numbers, the volunteers have been gathering themselves together and coming up to do earnest battle with this old-established, strongly entrenched, and powerfully-protected evil.

At this juncture, then, comfort and aid to the organized liquor traffic means something very different indeed from what it formerly implied. When battle is joined, to aid one of the combatants looks too much like being of his party. When Roumania extends a benevolent neutrality to Russia, its motives are lost sight of in the significance of its acts. And when the Chairman of the Licensed Victuallers' Protection Society sees the Prince of Wales kindly and charitably sitting in the asylum chair, he, and not only he, but the public at large, interprets it as involving

certainly some moral support and aid to the cause of the widely assailed liquor traffic.

This then, is the change, and in view of it, we venture to think that the old precedents have gone far enough, and should in future be allowed to be forgotten. We trust that this will be the case, and that hereafter, when the embattled publicans are meeting the host of their fast-multiplying antagonists, they will not have even the pretext of to-day for the boast that over their standard they are allowed to exhibit the Prince of Wales feathers.

TEETOTALISM IN INDIA.

—"On Guard" for June, 1877, says that "the fact that the April register (of the British army in India) returns 9,708 men of all ranks, and 935 women and children, giving a total of 10,703, proves indisputably that the movement has become exceedingly popular, and that the advantages of perfect sobriety are so apparent in the barrack-room that the men in lustre enrol themselves as pledged abstainers against the use of intoxicating drink." It adds:—

The following paragraph from Sir Henry Norman's letter, dated 3rd October, 1876, will be read with interest—"In the Bengal Presidency, in the year 1865-66, with an average strength throughout the year of 37,508 British soldiers, the consumption was 281,378 gallons, while in 1874-75, with an average strength of 38,104 soldiers, the consumption had fallen to 206,069 gallons. In other words, with 573 soldiers more the consumption has been 75,309 gallons less." Total abstinence is always a blessing to those who practice it in health, but it is invaluable when sickness breaks out, it enables the sufferer to respond to medical treatment very much more quickly, and it has enabled many a man on the line of march to keep in the ranks and bear the fatigues of the journey with much greater strength than those who were stimulating themselves with the habitual dram, which increased thirst, without imparting strength. The following letter has been received by the secretary, authorizing him to draw the sum granted— "The Government of India having, in connection with questions pertaining to the health of the army, recognized the importance of discouraging the use of alcoholic drinks by the British soldier in India, have watched with interest the work done by the Soldiers' Total Abstinence Association. It is therefore with great pleasure that the Hon. the President in Council notices the success—as shown by your annual reports—that has attended the efforts of the association, and as it is known that a regular income is much needed to meet the cost of books and your travelling charges and other incidental expenses, I am directed to inform you that the Government of India are pleased to sanction a grant in aid to the association of Rs 150 a month."

Teetotalism is thus established by the Government of India—a fact worth noticing.—*Alliance News*.

WHAT THE MATTER WAS.

Norman Kerr, M.D., F.L.S., of London, read a paper at a recent meeting presided over by the Bishop of Chichester, in which he stated the following fact:—

Alcohol, being of a thirsty nature, seizes upon water wherever that exists, and thus at once begins its work as a disturber of the functions of the living body by depriving the mouth and salivary glands of a portion of their natural moisture, and in this way the use of alcoholic liquors, so far from quenching the natural desire for fluid, simply irritates and provokes an unnatural thirst. The stomach is robbed of natural moisture in the same imperious way, the inner coats are irritated, inflamed, and ulcerated, and the natural process of digestion is rudely and seriously disturbed. A steady daily perseverance in this irritation and ill-usage of the stomach greatly disturbs the digestive organs, and frequently induces, even in those who—though regular—are very careful and limited drinkers, that intractable and depressing disease, alcoholic dyspepsia. More than half of all the cases of this ailment that I have had under my care, have been in the persons of respectable, well-living, and orderly citizens against whom no one could whisper even a suspicion of intemperance. As a type of the mere physical suffering accompanying digestive disturbance arising from a very limited indulgence in alcohol, I may narrate the case of a clergyman who consulted me some time ago. He was thirty-eight years of age, and naturally of a wiry, healthy constitution, very active, of sanguine, nervous temperament, and of strictly regular habits. He stated that he was frequently subject to severe attacks of palpitation of the heart, suffered from constant nausea and flatulence, had little or no appetite, was afraid to be alone anywhere, and never went into the pulpit without a dread of dropping down dead. He was the very picture of misery, but after examining him carefully, and finding that he never smoked, I came to the conclusion that the *sons et origo mali* was

the daily indulgence in one pint of beer and two glasses of wine, with occasionally half a glass of spirits as a night-cap, the latter allowance being resorted to only when in a state bordering on desperation from want of rest and sleep. I prescribed a gentle tonic, and insisted on total and immediate abstinence. He was exceedingly uncomfortable for the first fortnight, but after that all the former distressing symptoms began rapidly and steadily to disappear, till, in a couple of months, he described himself as a "free man, emancipated and disenthralled by the genius of unconditional abstinence."

ALCOHOL FOR MOTHERS.

It is through the agency of the vitiated blood of the mother that a large percentage of the mortality of infants is indirectly and indirectly caused by drinking. I have known half a glass of whiskey taken by a nursing mother give rise, in a few hours, to the most alarming symptoms in an infant, who ultimately made a narrow recovery; and I have frequently had occasion to examine the bodies of infants whose deaths were clearly traceable to the direct effects of the alcohol imbibed at the maternal breast, the mother all the while unconscious of any possible mischief to her little darling from her own daily so-called "moderate" drinking. Many medical men have recorded instances where beer and porter were the sole cause of infantile diarrhoea, convulsions, and wasting sickness, and I have again and again been enabled to put an effectual stop to the disease and emancipator of infants at the breast by the simple prescription of non-alcoholic diet to the mother, or of unalcoholized and innocent artificial food to the child. The every-day prescription of "nourishing stout" to the nursing mothers is not scientific medicine, but is the grossest quackery, and is but too often productive of the most lamentable results to both mother and child, and the resort to alcoholic beverages in such circumstances is a practice that ought no longer to be tolerated in an educated and civilized community. Where the child's natural food is deficient in quantity oatmeal gruel or porridge, cows' milk, farinaceous food, and good beefsteaks will accomplish all that is desired, but all the alcohol in the world will never add a drop to the store of real milk. It will only dilute, adulterate, and poison the previous scanty supply. Most distressing cases have come under my own observation where the lowest depths of drunken degradation have been reached by females brought up as abstainers, whose first introduction to the "maddening bowl" was reluctantly forced upon them on the unfounded plea that alcohol was imperatively demanded to support the constitution under the continuous drain arising from the nursing of strong and hungry children. For the mother and for the infant there is no nutriment in alcohol, but for both there is ever bodily risk and moral danger, and the only safe regimen is that prescribed of old by the great ruler of the universe, when, with wine and strong drink forbidden, He

"Made choice to rear
The mighty champion, strong above compare,
Whose drink was only from the limpid brook."

THE LARGEST COCOA-ROOMS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. Dowkontt writes:—"The need has been long felt of another place of this description in Liverpool, and the friends of the movement will rejoice to hear that premises, built for the purpose, have been opened to the public, and are being thoroughly appreciated by the busy crowds that throng the thoroughfare facing the Huskisson Dock, opposite which the Cocoa-Rooms are situated. It contains two rooms, which are each capable of holding 500, and ample offices and appliances are provided to insure the prompt supply of refreshments.

The opening took place on Tuesday, the 5th ult., when that most earnest and noble champion of the working classes, T. B. Smithies (editor of the *British Workman*), delivered a very stirring address to those present in the upper room, in which the meeting was held. The platform was filled with commercial and other gentlemen, and the body of the hall crowded by the working classes. The speaking over, a free distribution of cocoa to all present took place, and it was indeed very good in quality, the scene being one that some of our artists would have done well to sketch. This is the twenty-fourth house of the kind in Liverpool, and as a proof of their being self-supporting, one of the speakers stated that the shareholders had realized a profit of 10 per cent. By far the larger number of these houses are filled, or partly so, all day.

One good plan which the committee have adopted is, not to spare expense, so as to get houses in a leading thoroughfare, close to where a body of men are employed in the docks or such places, fitting them up, inside and out, in an attractive and comfortable manner. Another good plan is the issuing of copper checks, made of a penny in size, and bearing the stamp of the company: the advantage of these

being that persons can purchase them, and give them to men instead of money, so preventing the money thus given being spent in beer, &c.—*Word and Work*.

IN THE STREETS AT NIGHT.

"His father don't allow him to be in the streets at night," said Will Carson in a mocking tone; "better tie the baby to the bedpost with his mother's apron-strings."

John Mollen's face flushed at those taunts. No boy likes to be ridiculed, especially when a crowd of his playfellows are standing by.

"Be a man and come along with us," said Harry Jones. "You are old enough now to think and act for yourself."

"Come, John, come with us," said another. "We shall have a grand time. It won't hurt you just for once to have a little fun."

"No," said John. "I shall mind my father. The Bible says, 'Honor thy father and thy mother,' and I shall do it."

"Come on, boys," said Will, starting off; "don't sit id listening to his preaching."

John went home, and in preparing his lessons for the next day and joining in the home pleasures he had forgotten all about the boys. The next morning, on his way to school, he heard that the boys had been arrested and sent to jail for being drunk and disorderly. Think how anxious their parents must have been all through the night, and then to be told that they were in jail! How it must have surprised and pained them.

Don't be wandering in the streets at night, boys. It is a bad habit, and nothing but harm can come of it. Hundreds of boys are ruined through being in the streets at night.

John Mollen made a happy and prosperous man. And so will every boy who fears God, stands up for the right, and honors his father and mother.—*Children's Friend*.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC AND TAXES.

Thomas Talbot, Governor of Massachusetts, addressing the Legislature of that State, two years ago, said: "When I think of the victims to the use of intoxicating liquors in every village of the Commonwealth, when I consider our almshouses, and hospitals, and homes for the fallen and friendless; when I look into our jails, work-houses, houses of correction, and the State prison, and when I try to compute the losses and charges upon all our industries, by reason of imperfect labor, and the taxes for the support of those institutions for reformation and punishment, my judgment unqualifiedly condemns, and my heart and my manhood rebel against any system that would permit the great source of all wrong and misery and crime to exist by authority of the Commonwealth. My convictions against the policy of such a movement are too solemn and resistless for me to hesitate as to my duty. It seems to me that the only safe and sound position for a Christian community to take in regard to this matter is that of absolute and unqualified opposition to the traffic."

When W. E. Gladstone was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, a deputation of brewers waited on him, to remind him of the loss the revenue would sustain by any farther restrictions on the liquor-traffic. His reply, as reported, was:—"Gentlemen, you need not give yourselves any trouble about the revenue. The question of revenue must never stand in the way of needed reforms. Besides, with a sober population, not wasting their earnings, I will know where to obtain the revenue."

ORDER DRINKING.—The results of cider drinking are arresting the attention of temperance workers as never before. And well they may. Not only do many practice and countenance the drinking of it on account of its domestic and often harmless nature, but this practice has entrenched itself among a class of citizens not usually given to the use of the recognized intoxicants. But some of the most flagrant crimes of late years have recently been committed under the stimulus of this very juice of the apple. The subject was brought to the attention of the New Hampshire Legislature at its last session, and a law was enacted forbidding the sale of fermented cider in less quantities than ten gallons. It is a wise law. It may be scolded about for a while, but as people think about it they will, if they are honest, admit that the sale of cider ought to be regulated if not prevented by law. It is certainly time that Christian people refuse to have anything to do with the stuff, except in the good and wholesome form of vinegar.—*Morning Star*.

Best in the Lord, and
wait patiently for Him.